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SUBJECT: Mulon, Milon, Millon of Mobile

REPORT TO [Private]

BACKGROUND: Henry Joseph Millon married Marie Françoise Girardy, daughter of Joseph Girardy of Louisiana's German Coast, about June 1734.¹ Their marriage produced at least four children: Jacques, Jean, Maurice, and Henry. About November 1744, the widowed Françoise wed Joseph Des Ruisseau, Seigneur de Lisle Perro.² In 1764 her son Jacques Milon—as guardian of his minor brothers—settled their father's succession at New Orleans.³ Neither marriage nor the births of the four sons appear in the published abstracts of the New Orleans diocese (the only means by which those records are accessible), although civil marriage contracts are on file at New Orleans. Given the Girardy connection, the events may have occurred in the Mobile jurisdiction where Girardy lived and worked prior to his settlement on the German Coast.

¹Alice Daly Forsyth and Ghislaine Pleasonton, *Louisiana Marriage Contracts: A Compilation of Abstracts from Records of the Superior Council of Louisiana during the French Regime, 1725–1758* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1980), 12.

²*Ibid.*, 130.

³“Act of Settlement by Guardian,” and “Account Rendered by Jacques Milon, guardian of his minor brothers, emancipated February 4, 1764,” Succession of Joseph Milon, no. 1764/2/901, Record Group 1, Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans.

OBJECTIVE: Search Mobile's colonial Catholic registers, pre-1760, for records relating to the Milons, Girardys, and their slaves or potential kinsmen.

PRIME RESOURCE: Parish of Our Lady, Mobile, Alabama
(Baptisms, 1704–1773; Burials, 1726–1768; Marriages, 1724–1786)
Photocopies of Mobile's registers were acquired in the 1970s from the Chancery Archives of Mobile with two restrictions: (1) The photocopies are to be used only for research purposes; and (2) abstracts can be made from individual records but I may not reproduce any pages or publish the whole.

BACKGROUND: Higginbotham, Jay. *Old Mobile: Fort Louis de la Louisiane, 1702–1711*. Mobile: Museum of the City of Mobile, 1977.
Vidrine, Jacqueline Olivier. *Love's Legacy: The Mobile Marriages Recorded in French, Transcribed, with Annotated Abstracts in English, 1724–1786*. Lafayette, Louisiana: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1985.

AUTHORIZATION: 8 hours for research, analysis, and reporting

KEY FINDINGS: Two Millon males of the same age bracket, and only two, appear in Mobile between 1734 and 1744: Pierre Étienne and Henry Joseph. Interactions between them, as well as their shared occupations, suggest the strong possibility that they were brothers. Henry Joseph Milon, called Joseph, gave his birthplace as Rheims, France. He is variously said to be a “master carpenter” and “entrepreneur of works for the king,” while Pierre was a “master joiner.” Joseph’s 1734 marriage into the influential Girardy family, and Pierre’s marriage into Mobile’s prominent Baudreau de Graveline and Simon *dit* LePointe families, likely aided Joseph’s rise in stature.

All sons of Joseph Millon and Françoise Girardy were baptized at Mobile, prior to the 1744 deaths of both Joseph and Pierre. Pierre’s widow, Jeanne Simon *dit* La Pointe, stayed in Mobile with her family and remarried there. Joseph’s widow returned to the New Orleans–German Coast area to be with her family. Her son Jacques makes two later appearances in Mobile’s registers: first, as a godparent (1756) and then at his own marriage (1760).

No slaves were baptized for either Millon family until 1740, and only a handful thereafter. None of those enslaved infants, their mothers, or godparents bore names that have been previously connected to the New Orleans–based Millon/Mulon family of color.

NEXT STEP: Very few civil records survive for colonial Mobile. The data found to date for this family strongly suggest that research should focus now on the civil records of New Orleans—principally the Notarial Archives, which have been microfilmed and may be studied through the local Family History Centers of the Salt Lake-based Family History Library.

GENERAL NOTE: Descriptive and ethnic terms are crucial “identifiers” when working with single-name and common-name slaves and f.p.c. Thus, throughout this report, individuals will be identified by the exact ethnic terms each record used to describe them.

RESEARCH NOTES

Jay Higginbotham’s definitive study of the first decade of Mobile’s settlement presents the arrival of Joseph Girardy in Mobile with Simon *dit* La Pointe, who would become a Milon father-in-law also. Higginbotham, after much discussion of the Canadian military officer and commercial entrepreneur Jean Baptiste Baudreau de Graveline, introduces Graveline’s brother Gabriel:

“On Feb. 14, 1708, at the office of royal notary Antoine Adhémar de Saint-Martin [in Montréal], Gabriel signed on **Antoine Simon** of Pointe-aux-Trembles to accompany him and his family to Mobile. Simon’s services would be obligated to Gabriel for a period of two years, during which time Gabriel would be responsible for all food and supplies. Five days later, Gabriel signed on five other young men—Étienne Étienne [*sic*], Laurent Blot, Jean-Baptiste L’Ecuyer, **Joseph Girardy** and Jacques Mainville—several of whom were related to him and all of whom were in their twenties. For a salary of 150 *livres* the *engagés* were, for a one-year period, to ‘do absolutely all that the said M. Graveline wishes them to do,’ to ‘work on the black lead of the Mississippi if he deems it profitable’ and ‘not to leave their services without written consent.’ With his six *engagés* Gabriel was now ready to depart, having already received permission from Governor Rigaud de Vaudreuil. There were to be further delays, however.”

After political opposition from the Detroit governor, Indian attacks on the upper Mississippi, unanticipated childbirths, and some ore sampling in the Illinois area, the party finally arrived at Mobile in January 1710. "Several of the engages whose terms were ended remained at Mobile, but [the others soon returned to Kaskaskia [Illinois] to extend the search for minerals." (Higginbotham, *Old Mobile*, 395–98, citing numerous original documents from the Archives Colonies (Paris) and Archives Judiciares (Montreal)).

Joseph Girardy and Antoine Simon *dit* La Pointe were among those who stayed in the Mobile district and settled among the Pascagoulas Indians of the Mississippi Coast. As previously known, Girardy's daughter, Françoise would marry Henry Joseph Milon. As the following Mobile church records show, Simon La Pointe's daughter Marie Jeanne married one Pierre Étienne Milon, Joseph's likely brother.

Parish of Our Lady, Mobile, Alabama
Sacramental Registers for
 Baptisms, 1704–1773 • Burials, 1726–1768 • Marriages 1724–1786

Baptismal Book 1: 102

Jean Baptiste Baudrau & Marie Catherine Vinconneau

1 March 1734

Marriage, after the publication of one bann at the parish mass on 20 February, without any impediment being known, and dispensation from the other two banns. Groom: Jean Baptiste Baudreau, Creole of Isle Dauphine, son of Sieur Jean Baptiste Baudreau dit Graveline, captain of the militia at the Pascagoulas, and Susanne [no surname given]. Bride: Marie Catherine Vinconneau de la Rochelle, daughter of Louis Vinconneau, master tailor, and Catherine Doussin, spouse in second nuptials of **Sr. Joseph Simon dit La Point**, resident at Pascagoulas, at whose home the ceremony took place. Signed: F. Mathias, Capucin Missionary and curate; X Mark of the husband; Baudrau; Baudrau [again]; Charlé Egron; Christian? [Christian Ladner?]; N. Bodin; Rillieux; **P^{re} Millon**; Rouss—.

Baptismal Book 1: 235

Jacque Milon

26 November 1736

Baptism by a Jesuit missionary at Fort Condé de la Mobile, in absence of the parish priest, of a child born 3 November of the legitimate marriage of **Joseph Milon**, native of Rheims, and of Marianne [*sic*] Girardy, Creole of Louisiana. The godparents, Jacques Lorreins, resident of Mobile, and Jeanne de la Fons, have given him the name Jacques. Signed: François Guill. Morand, Miss. de la Compagnie de Jesus; **Millon**; Lorreins.

Marriage [*sic*] Book 1: 17

Simon Pierre Milon

4 December 1736

Baptism at the Pascagoulas, by F. Jean François, Capucin priest and missionary, curate of Fort Condé de la Mobile and of the Pascagoulas, of **Simon Pierre Milon**, legitimate son of **Pierre Étienne Milon**, habitant, and Jeanne Simon. The godfather, Joseph Simon dit La Pointe, habitant, declares not being able to sign because of *infirmité*. The godmother Catherine Doussin declares not knowing how to sign. Signed: F. Jean François, Curé; **Millon, perre** [i.e., *père*, meaning "the father"]; Roussau, "for Mr. Simon dit LaPointe."

Marriage Book 1: 18

Joseph Gardon & Jeanne Angelique Laye

17 January 1737

Marriage at the home Mr. Joly Bois, by the Capucin missionary and apostolic curate of Mobile and Isle Dauphine, after the publication of one bann and dispensation from the two other banns for good and valuable reasons. Groom: Joseph Gardon, legitimate son of Joseph Gardon and of Marie [no surname] of the parish of St. Porchere, town and diocese in Poitiers. Bride: Jeanne Angelique Layé, legitimate daughter of Nicolas Layé and Jeanne Angelique Fruget, Creole of Guadeloupe. Signed: F. Jean François, curate; X mark of the husband; Huet; Janne Angelique Laye; **Millon**; Pignon.

Marriage Book 1: 19–20

Joseph Estamier & Marie Jeanne La Casse

21 November 1737

Marriage by the Capucin priest and curate of Fort Condé de la Mobile, after the publication of banns. Groom: Joseph Estamier *dit* Chateaufneuf, soldier of the company of Mr. Le Sueur, legitimate son of Joseph Estamier and Marie François Crespie. Bride: Marie Jeanne Lacasse, legitimate daughter of Jean la Casse, soldier of the company of Mr. Marchant [at Fort Toulouse on the Alabama River], and Marianne Fourchet of the parish of Perne, diocese of Chalons. Signed: F. Prosper, Capucin missionary and curate; Chatauneuf; M. J. la Casse; Le Sueur; Grallin; Lorandini [the bride's stepfather]; Mari Le Clert; **Millon**, witness.

Marriage [*sic*] Book 1: 23

Marie Joseph[e] Milon

13 July 1738

Baptism by the apostolic missionary and curate of Mobile, of a girl named Marie Joseph, daughter of **Pierre Milon** and Jeanne La Pointe. Godparents: Pierre Gabriel dit Montelimar and Marie Joseph Lapointe, who have declared not knowing how to sign. Signed: F. Agnan, Capucin Priest, curate of Mobile.

Baptismal Book 1: 254

Jean Milon

7 December 1738

Baptism by the Capucin missionary, curate of Fort Condé, a child born 2 November of the same year of the legitimate marriage of **Henry Joseph Milon**, resident carpenter of this town, and Marie Françoise Girardy his wife. The godparents, Jean Heraud, resident of this town, and Marie Jeanne Henry have given him the name Jean. Signed: F. Amand Capucin and curate; **Millon**; X mark of the godfather; Marit Janne, godmother.

Baptismal Book 1: 265

Slave of Milon

17 February 1740

Baptism of a *négrillon* born of a *négresse* slave of **Mr. Milon**. The godparents, Sieur Boissinot and Madame St. Jean, have given him the name René.

Baptismal Book 1: 276–77

Maurice Milon

27 July 1741

Baptism by the curate of Mobile, a child born 10 July of the legitimate marriage of **Henry Joseph**

Milon, resident and master carpenter of this town, and Marie Françoise Girardy, his wife. The godparents, Maurice Duran, a resident of this town, and Margueritte Preaux, have given him the name Maurice. Signed: F. Amand, Capucin Cure; Durand, Marguerite Paux; **Millon**.

Baptismal Book 1: 282

Joseph Creps [Krebs]

11 January 1742, baptism of a child born of the legitimate marriage of Hugues Herneste Creps, native of Tréve, and Marie Joseph Simon, native of this parish. He has been brought to the baptismal font by **Joseph Milon**, acting for the godfather Sieur Joseph Simon dit La pointe, and Mademoiselle Beaudro, acting for the godmother Madame La pointe, who have given the child the name Joseph. Signed: F. Amand, Capucin curate; Hugo Ernestus Krebs.

Baptismal Book 1: 283

Gabrielle Angelique Milon

4 February 1742, baptism by the Capucin missionary of the Apalaches Indians, in the absence of Rev. Father Amand, curate of this parish of Mobile, a child born 20 May 1741 of the legitimate marriage of **Pierre Milon**, resident, and Jeanne La Pointe. The godfather, **Mr. Joseph Milon**, entrepreneur of works for the king, and Gabrielle Grandval, have given her the name Gabrielle Angelique Signed F. Jean François, Capucin Missionary; **Millon**, Gabrielle Grandval, **P^{re} Millon**.

Baptismal Book 1: 287–88

“Negresse”

6 October 1742

Baptism of a *négritte*, born the day before of a *négresse* belonging to the King, named La Nourrice. The godfather Louis Athanase Helo, *maître de casse*, and **Jeanne Milon**, have given her the name Jeanne. Signed: F. Amand, Capucin curate; Helo.

Baptismal Book 1: 293

“Negresses”

25 December 1742

Baptism of two *négrites* previously baptized in anticipation of death, one aged about 18 months, the other about 10, both belonging to **Pierre Milon**, resident. The godparents have been **Pierre Milon**, Anne Maisonneuve, **Jacque Milon**, and **Marguerite Milon**, who have given to the first the name Thérèse and to the second, Marguerite. Signed: F. Jean François, Capucin curate; **P^{re} Millon**.

Baptismal [*sic*] Book 1: 294

Joseph Indien, drowned

5 January 1743, there have appeared before the parish priest, **Mr. Pierre Milon**, master joiner, and Mr. Pierre Paul Loisel, master locksmith, who have declared that the one called Joseph, Indian slave of Joseph la Prade, had been drowned at Chactaux Point. Signed: F. Jean François, curate; F. Amand, Capucin; Loysel; **Pierre Millon**.

Baptismal Book 1: 297

Jean Baptiste Millon

22 June 1743

Baptism by the parish priest, of a boy born of the legitimate marriage of **Pierre Étienne Milon**, resident, and Jeanne LaPointe. Godparents, Jean Paul Le Sueur, captain of a detached company of Marines, and Dame Marguerite Constance de Lusser have given the child the name Jean Baptiste. Signed: F. Jean François, Capucin missionary, Curate; Lusser Develle; Le Sueur; **Pierre Millon**.

Baptismal Book 1: 298

Claude Milon

21 October 1743

Baptism by the parish curate, an infant born of the legitimate marriage of **Joseph Milon** and Marie Françoise Girardy, who has been given the name **Claude** by his godparents, Claude Prevot and Marie Joseph Poupart. Signed: F. Seraphin [the curate], Claude Prevost.

Baptismal Book 1: 300

François Moruo dit Sanscartier

6 November 1743

Baptism by the parish curate of a child born of the legitimate marriage of Hubert des Moruo dit Sanscartier and Jeanne Izabelle Boissinot. The godparents, François Boissinot and **Marie Françoise Girardy** wife of **Sieur Milon**, entrepreneur for the king, have given him the name François. Signed: F. Jean François, C. M. Curé; X mark of the godfather; Mari Françoise Girardy.

Baptismal Book 1: 301

Pierre Krebs

29 December 1743

Baptism of a child of Hugo Ernestus Krebs and Marie Joseph La Pointe, coming from their legitimate marriage. The godfather **Pierre Millon** and the godmother Elisabeth Ile have given him the name Pierre. Signed: F. Seraphin; **Pierre Millon**.

Burial Book 1: 41

Joseph, Mr. Milon

7 January 1744

Burial in the cemetery of this parish of the body of deceased **Joseph Milon**, entrepreneur for the king, who died after having received the sacraments of the church.

Baptismal Book 1: 304

"Negresse"

20 March 1744

Baptism of a *négritte* belonging to Mr. **Boissi**. The godparents, François Bodr____? and Marguerite Pro have given her the name **Jeannete**. Signed: F. Jean François; Marguerite Preaux.

COMMENT:

In 1788, a free man of color named Jeannot—possibly Jeannot Mulon *dit* LeBrun, suspected slave of Jean **Bossier dit** LeBrun who owned the farm next door to Joseph Girardy in St. John the Baptist Parish on Louisiana's German Coast—paid for the freedom of a *negresse* named Jeannette in St. John the Baptist Parish. (See Mills report, "Jeannot Mulon *dit* La Brun, f.m.c., Colonial Natchitoches, Louisiana," dated 8 December 2005, p. 25.)

There is nothing to suggest that these are one and the same Jeannette. However, because the nickname was not particularly common, I am noting the record here. "Mr. Boissi," the owner above, should not be confused with the Bossier *dit* LeBrun family. He was Bertrand Joseph de Boissy, an officer of the Marines detached to Mobile.

Burial Book 1: 42

Pierre Étienne Milon

16 November 1744

Burial in the parish cemetery of the corpse of deceased **Pierre Milon**, habitant, who died this day after having received the sacraments of the church. Signed: F. Jean François, Capucin Missionary.

Baptismal Book 1: 309

"Negritte"

25 November 1744

Baptism of a *négrite* belonging to the widow of **Pierre Etienne Milon**. The godfather **Pierre Milon** [Jr.] and the godmother Marguerite Fievre have given her the name Charlotte. Signed: F. Jean François, Capucin curate; **Milon**.

Marriage Book 1: 34-35

François Barbet dit St. Michel & Jeanne Simon

21 February 1747

Marriage, after publication of three banns on three consecutive Sundays at the parish mass, without any opposition. Groom: François Barbet dit St. Michel, soldier of the company of D'Erneville, native of Orleans, Parish St. Michel, Bishopric of Orleans, legitimate son of Jean Barbet, hosiery merchant, and Anne Maloute. Bride: **Jeanne Simon**, Creole, **widow of Pierre Millon**, daughter of Joseph Simon and of Marie Fouca[ult], her father and mother. Witnesses: Krebs, Doussaint, Melisan, Fievre, Houries, the father of the bride "and others." Signed: Krebs; X mark of the groom; X mark of the bride; Demouy; Hourie; Melisan; F. Prosper, Capucin missionary apostolic.

Baptismal Book 1: 346

"Négritte"

18 October 1748

Baptism of Marie, born of a *négresse* slave of Sieur Creps [Krebs], resident of this parish. The godparents, Joseph Krebs and **Marie Milon**, have declared they do not know how to sign. Signed: F. Jean François, Capucin missionary.

Baptismal Book 1: 357

Pierre, Mulâtre

27 November 1750

Baptism of Pierre, *mulâtre*, aged 3 weeks, belonging to Sieur Barbé dit St. Michel. The godparents, Pierre Du Faux dit La Font and **Marie Joseph Milon** have declared they do not know how to sign. Signed: F. Jean François, Capucin missionary.

Baptismal Book 1: 357

Louis Augustin Kreps

15 December 1750

Baptism of Louis Augustin, born yesterday of the legitimate marriage of Hugue Ernest Kreps and Marie Joseph La Pointe. The godfather has been Louis Augustin Rochan. The godmother, **Marie Joseph Milon** declares she does not know how to sign. Signed: F. Jean François, Capucin missionary; Louis Augustin Rochon.

Baptismal Book 1: n.p.

Antoinette LeBrun

4 July 1750

Baptism of Antoinette, born yesterday of the legitimate marriage of **Claude Le Brun**, soldier, and Marie Jeanne Requiem. The child had been baptized at home in danger of death. The godfather has been Jacque le Grand. The godmother, Toinette Uly, declares not knowing how to sign. Signed: J. LeGrand; **Le Brun**; F. Jean François, Capucin missionary.

COMMENT:

I am noting here the presence of this soldier named Le Brun at Mobile. However, I have seen nothing to suggest that he is in any way connected to the Bossier *dit* LeBrun family from which Jeannot Mulon of Natchitoches apparently took his own *dit*.

Baptismal Book 1: n.p.

Jacques, *négrillon*

22 September 1751

Baptism of Jacques, *négrillon* belonging to Mr. Kreps, habitant. Godparents: François Fievre and **Marguerite Milon**. Signed: F. Jean François, Capucin missionary; François; Marguerite.

Baptismal Book 1: n.p.

Jean Baptiste, Etienne, Claude, Roch & others

2 May 1752

Baptism of several *negre* adults. The godparents have been Joseph Kreps and Louise Fieuvre; Pierre Kreps and Marthe Fieuvre, Jean Pierre Marbeaux and **Marie Anne Millon**; François Krebs and Marguerite de Flandre; Philippe Rouséve and **Marguerite Millon**, François Noyan and Marie Jeanne Delande; Maurice Gabriel and Jeanne Boisdoré. Signed: F. Vomauld, Capucin.

Baptismal Book 1: n.p.

Joseph, *négrillon*

17 September 1753

Baptism of Joseph, born of the legitimate marriage of Pierre and Marie, slaves of Sieur Augustin Rochon. Godparents: **Joseph Milon** and Gabrielle Monteliemart. Signed: **Joseph Millon**; Gabriel Montelimart.

COMMENT:

This Joseph Milon should be a son of the Milon-Simon dit La Pointe marriage.

Baptismal Book 1:n.p.

"Negrillon"

2 April 1756

Baptism of Jacque, born 31 March of Gotton[?], *négresse* slave of Mr. Bertelaut. Godparents have been **Jacque Milon** and Gabriel Gabrié [sic].

Baptismal Book 1: n.p.

"Mulâtre"

9 September 1756

Baptism of Bertrand, born of a *mulâtresse* belonging to Madame Baptiste. The godparents, Bertrand Guichampduc and Mdselle. **Julie Baptiste** have signed with me. F. Ferdinand, Curate; Bd. Guichampduc; Julie Baptiste.

Baptismal Book 1: n.p.

Jeanne Rochon

17 October 1756

Baptism of Jeanne, daughter of Jean Rochon and **Marie Joseph Millon**, a married couple. The godparents have been Pierre Rochon and Jeanne La Pointe. F. Ferdinand, curate; and P. Rochon.

Baptismal Book 1: n.p.

Agathe, mulâtresse

11 December 1756

Baptism of Agathe, *mulâtresse* belonging to Monsieur Montelimar. Godparents: **Jacques Milon** (s) and Catherine Montelimar (s). F. Ferdinand, Curé.

Marriage Book 1:44

Jacques Milon to Julie Huet

21 December 1760

Marriage after one bann and dispensation from the other two. Groom: **Jacque Milon**, a native of Mobile and *armurier* for the king; son of Joseph Milon and Marie Girardi. Bride: Julie, daughter of Henriette Huet, widow of Baptiste Bideau. Signed: Ferdinand, curate; **J. Milon**; Julie Veuve Bidaut; Auguste Langlois; Montelimart [illegible name]; and two other illegible signatures.
